Medical experiments on animals

400. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Animal Welfare has asked the National Institute of Virology, to stop its experiments on all animals;

(b) if so, the details of this decision;

(c) the reasons for the decision; and

(d) whether this decision would hamper the NIVs on-going research on developing AIDS vaccine and other experiments?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) During inspection by the nominees of CPCSEA on 8th May, 2002, it was noted that there was violation of Guidelines of Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) formulated by a sub-committee headed by Secretary, Department of Biotechnology in terms of light, ventilation, hygiene and movement space for the animals. Therefore, thirty nine animals of the institute have since been moved in facilities outside the Institute. Efforts are on to provide appropriate facilities of housing and health care of animals at the institute so that research work continues.

Funds for rice research

2491. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR.T.SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the Hindu dated the 26th June, 2002 under the heading, "Funds crunch hits rice research";

(b) if so, whether the tight squeeze on funding by developed countries has severely hit research programme of the Manila-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in rainfed varieties of rice, that are resistant to drought, floods and salinity;

(c) if so, the reasons for the same; and